



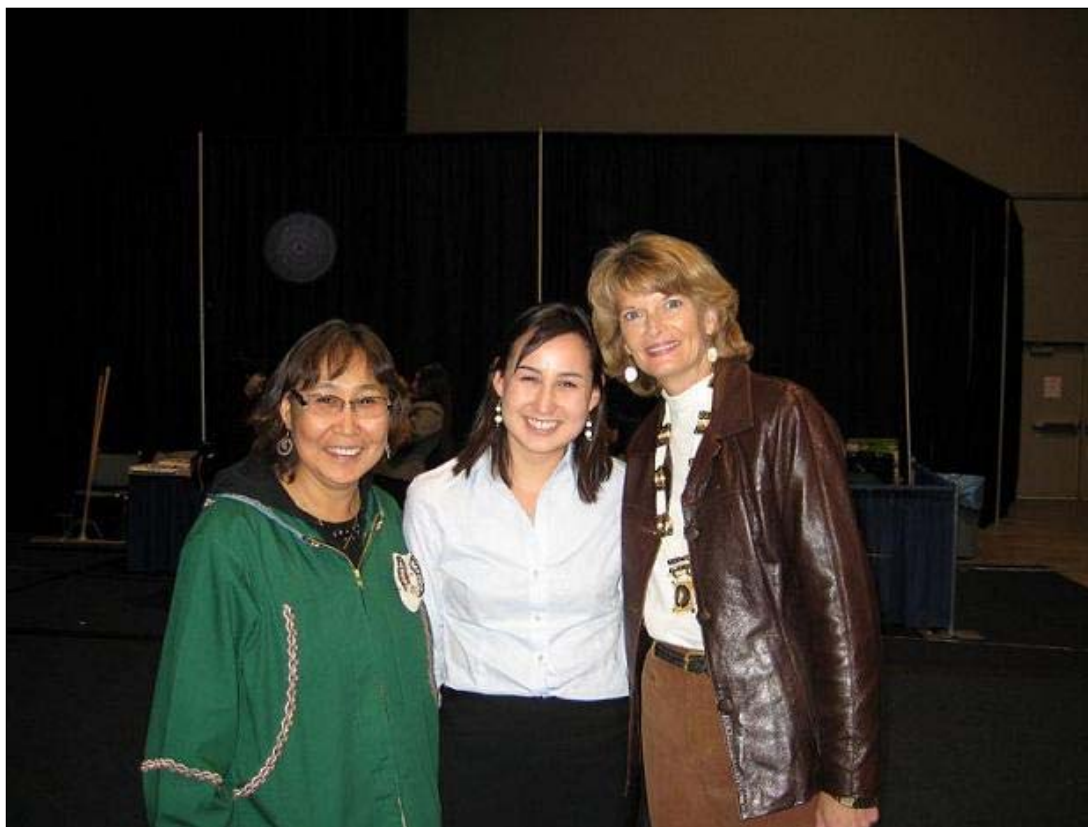
***eNews from Sen. Lisa Murkowski - November 2 , 2007 - Vol. 3, Issue 15***

[Visit Senator Murkowski's Web Site](#) - [Download a Print Version](#)

## **Murkowski Addresses Alaska Federation of Natives Convention**

Last weekend I traveled to Fairbanks to attend the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention. AFN is always one of my favorite events of the year. The convention gives me the opportunity to catch up with old friends from across the state, and to learn about the issues important to Alaska Natives.

This year was particularly special to me as I was able to introduce a new member of my staff. I was recently elevated to the Vice Chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. This appointment has enabled me to place an emerging young Alaska Native leader on the professional staff of the Committee: Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle. Megan grew up in Nome and her family is originally from King Island. I am certain Megan will do an exceptional job representing Alaska Natives throughout the State.



Senator Murkowski with Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle and Megan's mother Bernadette.

## **Murkowski Supports Children's Health Insurance Program**

Yesterday, I joined my colleagues in the Senate supporting legislation to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This is our second attempt to reauthorize this critical program, as the President vetoed a previous bill.

CHIP extends vital health insurance to the most vulnerable segments of our population – low income children and children of the working poor. This CHIP bill will provide performance bonuses to states that enroll only the lowest income children in the state, those eligible for Medicaid. I urge the President to support this bi-partisan legislation.

The reauthorization extends coverage for over six million children currently enrolled in the program and expands the program to include an additional 3.5 million eligible low-income children and children of the working poor. In addition, the legislation establishes a new allotment formula to determine each state's share of annual CHIP appropriations. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Alaska will receive \$35.6 million in Fiscal Year 2008 under this bill, an increase of \$24.4 million over the current law baseline funding.

Additionally, performance bonuses will be provided to States that exceed enrollment targets in Medicaid to cover children who are eligible but not enrolled.

---

## **Murkowski Stresses the Need to Assist Amchitka Weapons Employees**

Last week during a Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing into the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program, I called for speedier processing of compensation payments for illnesses contracted by workers who labored on United States nuclear programs like the former one on Amchitka Island.

Developing a compensation program is difficult, but in all too many cases the nation's nuclear workers are dealing with horrible health consequences as a result of the occupational exposures they faced. These workers and their families now need our help.

Nearly 2,200 people worked on the Amchitka Island nuclear weapons tests in the 1960's and early 1970's. Many are now facing problems gaining compensation, medical assistance and disability benefits for the illnesses they face as a result of radiation and contamination exposures. Amchitka Island is located on the southwest of the Aleutian Island Chain.

---

## **Share Your Photos of Alaska**

Throughout the year, thousands of people visit my Washington, D.C. office. Many of the visitors have never been to Alaska. I would like to share the beauty and grandeur of our state. I will be installing a monitor in the lobby of my office which will display a series of photographs from across the state highlighting the scenery and wildlife that makes Alaska the Great Land.

Do you have photos that you'd like to share? If so, email me your Alaskan pictures to [slideshow@murkowski.senate.gov](mailto:slideshow@murkowski.senate.gov), and I will incorporate them into the display.



Auke Bay from the M/V Fairweather

---

## **Murkowski Supports Law of the Sea Treaty**

Earlier this week I joined my colleagues on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in passing the Convention on the Law of the Sea. The treaty is now eligible to be voted on by the full Senate.

Alaska has a great interest in seeing the United States become a party to the Law of the Sea. The treaty allows us to advocate for a larger continental shelf area in the Arctic and the resources that come with it, as well as addresses the impacts of potential circumpolar maritime shipping routes if the polar ice cap continues to shrink. It also provides legally secured navigation and resource protection rights. [View my statement during the committee hearing here.](#)

---





Senator Murkowski and Mac enjoy a successful hunt in Interior Alaska.

[SUBSCRIBE](#) [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

Washington, D.C. Office 709 Hart Senate Building Washington D.C., 20510 202-224-6665

[Click here for a listing of our Alaska offices](#)

